

Wednesday, November 1, 2006

p.35

Duxbury Clipper

Cove Street Demolition Delay

By BARBARA KILEY

The Duxbury Historical Commission has voted to impose a six-month demolition delay on a request to demolish a structure at 62 Cove Street.

As allowed under the town's bylaws, the demolition delay is intended to allow the homeowner and the DHC to attempt to find an alternative to the destruction of a historic property.

The DHC held a public hearing on Oct. 11 to present to the community the application for structure demolition. The structure, owned by Jean and Mark DeCollibus, is a Greek Revival house built in the 1830s. As those attending the meeting learned, Cove Street is one of the earliest subdivisions in Massachusetts, and the nine houses on the street still standing from that period were built to house shipyard managers and their families when Duxbury's shipbuilding era was at its peak. There are rumors that the street was once one of ill repute.

At the meeting,

DeCollibus stated estimates indicate it will be more expensive to renovate the structure than it would be to demolish it and build a new home of similar size, still appropriate for the neighborhood.

One neighbor expressed his confidence that whatever the DeCollibus family might choose to do would be well done and appropriate for the neighborhood. Others present, dedicated to preserving Duxbury's historic structures, stressed that renovation, while expensive, is well worth the investment. Receiving most attention at the hearing and noted by Town Historian Katherine Pillsbury, residents Jeanne Clark and Martha Himes Riegelhaupt, was the importance of the Cove Street neighborhood and the significance of this specific house to the historic value of the entire neighborhood. DHC committee member Norman Tucker noted the property has been deemed eligible for inclusion on the National Historic